

HOUSE BILL 2459
By Hackworth

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7,
relative to voluntary contribution programs of
energy providers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 52, is amended by adding
the following as new part 7:

Section 7-52-701.

(a) In addition to the authority granted under otherwise applicable law, a municipal electric plant acquired or operated under the provisions of this chapter or any private act of the general assembly upon the adoption of a resolution by its governing body has the power to accept and distribute voluntary contributions for bona fide charitable purposes pursuant to programs approved by the governing body. Such programs may include, but shall not be limited to, programs in which utility bills are rounded up to the next dollar when such contribution is shown as a separate line on the utility bill.

(b) Contributions accepted by a utility district pursuant to programs authorized by subsection (a) shall not be considered revenue to the municipal electric plant, and such contributions shall be used only for charitable purposes.

(c) For purposes of this part, a "charitable purpose" is one that provides relief to the poor or underprivileged, advances education or science, addresses community deterioration, provides community assistance, assists in economic development, provides for the erection of public buildings, monuments, or works, assists in historic

preservation, or promotes social welfare through nonprofit or governmental organizations designed to accomplish any of the foregoing purposes.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 39, is amended by adding the following as new part 5:

Section 7-39-501.

(a) In addition to the authority granted under otherwise applicable law, an energy acquisition corporation acquired or operated under the provisions of this chapter or any private act of the general assembly upon the adoption of a resolution by its governing body has the power to accept and distribute voluntary contributions for bona fide charitable purposes pursuant to programs approved by the governing body. Such programs may include, but shall not be limited to, programs in which utility bills are rounded up to the next dollar when such contribution is shown as a separate line on the utility bill.

(b) Contributions accepted by an energy acquisition corporation pursuant to programs authorized by subsection (a) shall not be considered revenue to the municipal electric plant, and such contributions shall be used only for charitable purposes.

(c) For purposes of this part, a "charitable purpose" is one that provides relief to the poor or underprivileged, advances education or science, addresses community deterioration, provides community assistance, assists in economic development, provides for the erection of public buildings, monuments, or works, assists in historic preservation, or promotes social welfare through nonprofit or governmental organizations designed to accomplish any of the foregoing purposes.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.